UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/50/L.2
6 October 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme and reconstitution of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme

Note by the Secretariat

By its decision 1995/227 on 6 June 1995, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme and reconstitution of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme". The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below.

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Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme and reconstitution of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1714 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, 2095 (XX) of 20 December 1965 and 3404 (XXX) of 28 November 1975, concerning the establishment and continuation of the United Nations/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations World Food Programme, and its resolution 46/22 of 5 December 1991 on the revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme and enlargement of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme,

Recalling also its resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Having considered Economic and Social Council decision 1995/227 of 6 June 1995 adopted on the recommendation of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme concerning the governance of the Programme, the revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme, and the reconstitution of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme,

1. Decides, subject to the concurrence of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes shall be reconstituted as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme, with 36 members elected from among the States Members of the United Nations or the States members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and that the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shall elect 18 members each, as set forth in paragraph 2 below;

2. Also decides that the members of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme shall be elected on an interim basis for four years from among the States included in the lists set out in the Basic Texts of the World Food Programme, 1/ in accordance with the following distribution of seats, it being understood that this allocation of seats creates no precedent for the composition of other United Nations bodies of a limited membership:

(a) Nine members from the States included in list A, five members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and four by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(b) Seven members from the States included in list B, four members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and three by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

1/ Reproduced in E/1995/L.11, annex II.

(c) Five members from the States included in list C, two members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and three by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(d) Twelve members from the States included in list D, six members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and six by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(e) Two members from the States included in list E, one member to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and one by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(f) One additional member alternating between the States included in lists B and C, starting with list C, to be elected by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

3. Further decides that the above-mentioned distribution of seats shall be reviewed within two years after the establishment of the Executive Board with a view to achieving its final structure in accordance with paragraphs 25 and 30 and other relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/162; that the review shall be conducted in parallel by the Assembly and the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, taking into account the relevant inputs of the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; and that its results shall enter into force on 1 January 2000;

4. Requests the Economic and Social Council, at its resumed substantive session of 1995, to elect 18 members of the Executive Board for a term beginning on 1 January 1996 in accordance with the following distribution and terms of office:

(a) Five members from the States included in list A, two for a term of three years, one for a term of two years and two for a term of one year;

(b) Four members from the States included in list B, one for a term of three years, two for a term of two years and one for a term of one year;

(c) Two members from the States included in list C, one for a term of three years and one for a term of one year;

(d) Six members from the States included in list D, two for a period of three years, two for a period of two years and two for a period of one year;

(e) One member from the States included in list E, for a period of two years;

5. Decides that thereafter all members of the Executive Board shall be elected for a term of three years and requests the Economic and Social Council to make such provisions as ensure that the terms of office of six members elected by each of the two Councils shall expire in each calendar year;

6. Decides to approve the revised General Regulations of the World Food Programme contained in annex I of the note by the Secretary-General on the transformation of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme into an executive board, 2/ as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision ____ and by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at the ____ meeting of its _____ session, on _____ 1995.

7. Decides, subject to the concurrence of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, that the revised General Regulations shall enter into force on 1 January 1996.

2/ E/1995/14.

UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/50/L.3
13 October 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Water supply and sanitation

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 1995/46 of 27 July 1995, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Water supply and sanitation". The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below.

Water supply and sanitation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/18 of 10 November 1980, by which it proclaimed the period 1981-1990 as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

Recalling also its resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990, in which it expressed its deep concern about the slow rate of progress in the provision of services in water and sanitation,

Bearing in mind that the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990, the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990, the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, reiterated the need to provide, on a sustainable basis, access to safe water in sufficient quantities and proper sanitation for all,

Deeply concerned that at the current rate of progress the provision of drinking water will be insufficient to satisfy the needs of a very large number of people by the year 2000 and that the lack of progress in the provision of basic sanitation services is likely to have dramatic environmental and health consequences in the near future.

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in providing safe water supply and sanitation for all during the first half of the 1990s; 1/

2. Takes note of the programme strategies in water and environmental sanitation adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund at its annual session for 1995 2/ and of resolution AFR/RC 43/R2 of the Regional Committee for Africa of the World Health Organization, in which the Committee endorsed the Africa 2000 initiative for water supply and sanitation in Africa;

3. Calls upon Governments to implement fully the provisions concerning water resources in general and water supply and sanitation in particular contained in chapter 18 of Agenda 21, and the recommendations made by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second and third sessions, 3/ including the recommendations for action contained in the Action Programme of the Ministerial Conference on Drinking Water and Environmental Sanitation convened by the Government of the Netherlands on 22 and 23 March 1994, 4/ in particular:

(a) To develop, review or revise by 1997 and implement, in the context of a national sustainable development strategy consistent with Agenda 21, measures for drinking water supply and environmental sanitation, taking into account the goals set by the World Summit for Children;

(b) To undertake, as appropriate, legal, regulatory and institutional reforms designed to bring about the management of water resources at the lowest appropriate level, including stakeholder participation and the involvement of the private sector, and to adopt strategies for capacity-building;

(c) To assign high priority to programmes designed to provide basic sanitation and excreta disposal systems to urban and rural areas and to the treatment of waste waters, with provisions for community involvement;

1/ A/50/213-E/1995/87.

2/ See E/1995/L.23, sect. IV, decision 1995/22.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 13 (E/1994/33/Rev.1); and ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32).

4/ See E/CN.17/1994/12, annex.

(d) To formulate and implement investment strategies and cost-recovery policies aimed at generating a flow of financial resources commensurate with needs, taking into account the needs and conditions of the peri-urban and rural poor;

(e) To establish or strengthen a nationwide water and sanitation monitoring system, making full use, as appropriate, of the information support system developed by the Joint Monitoring Programme of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund;

4. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to intensify their efforts concerning financial and technical support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

5. Urges donor Governments, multilateral financial and development institutions and non-governmental organizations to give favourable and appropriate consideration to requests for grants and concessional financing, particularly with regard to environmental sanitation and sewerage and to waste-water treatment projects, which are intended to implement programmes consistent with the provisions and recommendations referred to in paragraph 3 of the present resolution;

6. Decides to review at its fifty-fifth session the situation at the end of the 1990s and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to it, through the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, containing an assessment of the water supply and sanitation situation in developing countries, including proposals for action for the ensuing decade at the national and international levels.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/50/L.4
13 October 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1997-1998

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 1995/3 of 13 July 1995, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1997-1998". The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below.

Target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1997-1998

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of its resolution 2095 (XX) of 20 December 1965 to the effect that the World Food Programme was to be reviewed before each pledging conference,

Noting that the Programme was reviewed by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme at its thirty-seventh session and by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994,

Having considered Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/3 of 13 July 1995 and the comments of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, 1/

1/ See E/1995/96.

Recognizing the value of multilateral food aid as implemented by the World Food Programme since its inception and the necessity for continuing its action both as a form of capital investment and for meeting emergency food needs,

1. Establishes for the period 1997-1998 a target for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme of $1.3 billion;

2. Urges States Members of the United Nations and members and associate members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and appropriate donor organizations to make every effort to ensure that the target is fully attained;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to convene a pledging conference for this purpose at United Nations Headquarters in 1996.

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/50/L.5
13 October 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 96 (f)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 1995/47 B of 27 July 1995, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction". The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below.

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994 and 49/22 B of 20 December 1994,

Expressing its solidarity with the people and countries that suffer as a result of natural disasters,

Emphasizing once again the urgent need for concrete measures to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards, the loss of human lives and the heavy physical and economic damage that occur as a result of natural disasters, in particular in developing countries, small island States and land-locked countries,

Reiterating the validity of the conclusions of the first World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994, in particular with regard to its call for increased bilateral, subregional,

regional and multilateral cooperation in the field of disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation, 1/

Commending those countries, national and local institutions, organizations and associations that have adopted policies, allocated resources and initiated action programmes, including international assistance, for disaster reduction and, in this context, welcoming the participation of private companies and individuals,

Commending all countries and intergovernmental and regional organizations that have actively engaged in regional and subregional assessments of vulnerability to natural hazards and have consequently initiated regional and subregional cooperation in the field of disaster reduction, including the exchange of data and technology as well as the development of joint administrative, technological and scientific approaches for applied disaster reduction,

Commending those organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, scientific associations and non-governmental organizations that, in accordance with decisions of their governing bodies, have incorporated the recommendations of the General Assembly relating to disaster reduction and those of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, in their programmes of work, thus contributing towards effective progress in disaster reduction in their mandated responsibilities and respective fields of activity, including the allocation of budgetary resources for disaster reduction,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General 2/ concerning the specific measures for the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and the Plan of Action contained therein and requests the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to continue to promote and monitor their translation into concrete activities, in close cooperation with all bodies comprising the International Framework of Action for the Decade, so as to ensure timely and effective implementation;

2. Commends those developing and least developed countries that have mobilized domestic resources for disaster reduction activities and have facilitated the effective implementation of such activities, and encourages all developing countries concerned to continue in this direction;

3. Recommends that all countries, with appropriate support, continue to study conventional and non-conventional ways and means of financing disaster reduction measures, both at the national level and with respect to subregional, regional and international technical cooperation;

1/ See A/CONF.172/9, chap. I.

2/ A/50/201-E/1995/74.

4. Calls upon Member States, relevant intergovernmental bodies and all others involved in the Decade to participate actively in the financial and technical support of Decade activities, in order to ensure the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade, in particular with a view to translating the Yokohama Strategy and the Plan of Action contained therein into concrete disaster reduction programmes and activities;

5. Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development to pay appropriate attention at its fourth session to the issue of disaster reduction when considering the relevant chapters of Agenda 21 3/ and of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; 4/

6. Welcomes the measures proposed by the Secretary-General to bring the International Framework of Action for the Decade into line with the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, in order to provide disaster reduction activities worldwide and regionally with authoritative and effective programme guidance so as to ensure stronger cohesion of disaster reduction programmes and the joint participation of concerned sectors in their implementation;

7. Notes the initiative for an informal mechanism between the secretariat of the Decade and Member States, intended to facilitate and support the promotion of Decade activities and the regular exchange of information between Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other organizations;

8. Welcomes, in pursuance of its resolution 49/22 A, the restructuring of the Special High-Level Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee for the Decade so that for the second half of the Decade they will provide the necessary support to global, regional and national policy and strategy development, public awareness-building and resource mobilization and at the same time provide links with the scientific community and support the national committees for the Decade and national authorities in their cooperative efforts to integrate disaster reduction programmes into national activities for sustainable development;

9. Endorses the Secretary-General's decision to extend until the end of the Decade the mandate of the United Nations Steering Committee for the Decade, established in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987 and 44/236;

10. Emphasizes that effective and efficient coordination and servicing of the above-mentioned components of the International Framework of Action for the

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3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

4/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.

Decade require a financially and structurally stable secretariat of the Decade, reporting to the Secretary-General through the Emergency Relief Coordinator;

11. Decides, in pursuance of its resolution 49/22 A, to convene a closing event of the Decade, through coordinated sectoral and cross-sectoral meetings at all levels, in order to facilitate the full integration of disaster reduction into the substantive efforts for sustainable development and environmental protection by the year 2000;

12. Decides that the secretariat of the Decade will serve as the substantive secretariat for the preparation of the closing event of the Decade, working with the full support of relevant bodies of the United Nations Secretariat and drawing on the contributions of the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, other international organizations and Governments;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the availability of resources for the preparatory process, including the necessary enhancement of the capacity of the secretariat, and to appeal for additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Decade;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report containing proposals on how the distinct programme and coordination capability of the secretariat of the Decade might be enhanced so as to enable it to coordinate effectively the activities of the Decade and the integration of natural disaster reduction into the sustainable development process;

16. Decides to consider the question of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction at its fifty-first session, as a separate sub-item under environmental questions related to the environment and sustainable development.